



Dr Tara Jernigan Wheeler

March 22, 1978 - July 19, 2020

Dr. Tara Jernigan Wheeler

Dr. Tara Jernigan Wheeler, age 42, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2020 at her home in Foley, AL surrounded by family. Dr. Wheeler was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who was born on March 22, 1978. She graduated as salutatorian of her class at McKenzie High School in 1996 and Troy State University in 1999 with a degree in Chemistry. She worked several years at U.S. Pipe before returning to school to pursue her dream of becoming a dentist. She graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry in 2010, where she was awarded the Dean's Medal for Outstanding Scholarship and Leadership and went on to own and practice at Wheeler Dental in Loxley, Al.

Her faith was evident in her work and personal life. She spent much of her time volunteering with local and international dental missions, including the Alabama Free Clinic which she was very passionate about. When she was in the office, she put patients at ease with her sweet humming of hymns. She lived her life putting others first, with the joy of Christ shining brightly in everything she did. She read her bible daily and lived her life to glorify God. While braving cancer she was a wonderful example of how faith and obedience prepares us to face life's challenges with fearless trust.

Dr. Wheeler is survived by her husband, Brian Wheeler; daughter Morgan Strawbridge (John David); parents, David Jernigan (Sally) and Beth Brogden (Alvin); sisters Lauren Ballard (Jacob) and Blair Bush (Colt); nieces Ella and

Ava Ballard and nephew Logan Ballard.

The family would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Burt Nabors and Dr. James Markert at UAB Neurosciences for their care and dedication and to the wonderful team at Community Hospice.

Dr. Wheeler and family are members of Jubilee Baptist Church in Daphne and a celebration of what Christ has done in her life will be held at the church at a later date. Information regarding the service will be provided at the appropriate time through the church office and www.jubilee baptist.com.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations to the Alabama Free Clinic, P.O. Box 1284 Bay Minette, AL 36507 (alabamafreeclinic.org).

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Jitka Boyd lit a candle in memory of Dr Tara Jernigan Wheeler*



Jitka Boyd - July 26, 2021 at 11:53 PM

SA

“ *Tara was the most unbelievable dentist. she made you feel uneasy. Her spirit & kindness & her genuine Faith touched so many lives. her demeanor was always the same. I have been blessed by her kind spirit & her gentle touch. I never needed any painMEDS FOR ANY PROCEDURES SHE PERFORMED. SHE IS AMAZING -& I plan on seeing her again beyond the pearly gates. If you met her, you loved her.*

SYBIL R.ALLEN. TARA IS A BEAUTIFUL ANG - June 15, 2021 at 03:44 PM

PA

“ *Dr Wheeler was the Most Wonderful Dentist and Person I have ever known! My Experience with Her as my Dentist was Amazing! Her Beautiful Smile and Sweet Voice! Her Humming While She Worked on My Teeth was the Most Soothing and Comforting Thing I have ever Heard! I was So Afraid of Dentist until Her! My Deepest Heartfelt Prayers and Condolences are For the Family and All of Us that had the Pleasure of knowing Her! I Will See You Again Dr Wheeler In Heaven! I Loved Her Love For God! ❤️ Gone way To Soon but God Knows what He is Doing! RIP Precious One Until We Meet Again!*

Pamela - March 28, 2021 at 08:01 PM

SA

I AGREE 100%

SYBIL R.ALLEN. TARA IS A BEAUTIFUL ANG - June 15, 2021 at 03:46 PM

SA

*Sybil allen tara is sadly
Missed by all who were blessed to know her*

SYBIL R.ALLEN. TARA IS A BEAUTIFUL ANG - June 15, 2021 at 03:53 PM

PA

“ *Pamela lit a candle in memory of Dr Tara
Jernigan Wheeler*



Pamela - March 28, 2021 at 07:52 PM

HD

“ *Harriette Douglas lit a candle in memory of Dr
Tara Jernigan Wheeler*



Harriette Douglas - December 15, 2020 at 09:51 PM

MR

“ *Melanie Rudd sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr
Tara Jernigan Wheeler*



melanie rudd - September 09, 2020 at 11:00 PM

BF

“ *Becky Fenner lit a candle in memory of Dr Tara Jernigan Wheeler*



Becky Fenner - August 26, 2020 at 01:14 PM

ME

“ *I have known Tara since she was in dental school at UAB as one of her clinical faculty. She was the most dedicated, intelligent student dentist I've had the pleasure of teaching. I am saddened to learn she has passed but know she will now give her service to our Lord for all eternity. God bless her soul and the lives of her family. May they all find peace in her wonderful life.*
Dr Mike Edwards

Michael Edwards - August 14, 2020 at 09:25 AM

JW

“ *Always so cheerful a true person of God.
It was an honor to have met you Dr.
Heaven has another Angel.
Your pain and suffering is over Rest in Peace and My deepest and sincere condolences to Family ,friends and staff.*

Jeffrey Werner - August 03, 2020 at 11:23 AM

Tina
White

“ I use to be scared to go to the dentist until I met Dr. Tara Wheeler, she was the most kind and caring person I had ever met, her smile lit up the room, and she was always happy and humming, she had a lot of faith, she will be missed! Erica White



Tina White - July 30, 2020 at 11:47 PM

MR

“ I never met Tara but was still inspired by her from what I heard from Brian and others. My prayers will be for the family.

Matt Richards - July 29, 2020 at 10:10 PM

TI

“ I loved how she would hum a hymn during my dental visits. She was such a pleasant and sweet person. She will be greatly missed!

Tiffany - July 27, 2020 at 03:33 PM

SR

“ Dr. Wheeler took amazing care of our entire family of 6's teeth. She made going to the dentist fun for our children and a joy for us too. She kept up with what was going on with all of us and remembered details 6 months later. Tara was kind and strong and smart! I remember being amazed over her determination to run that marathon after treatment... and deciding to take guitar, because why not?! She was a glorious picture of God's grace and care to our family and we will miss her dearly.

Sarah Rice - July 27, 2020 at 02:37 PM

AK

“ My fondest memory was when she needed to pick up several king cakes before we opened at Burriss and as I was always there early, I handed them to her out the bakery window. We laughed about that for a long time. She was the sweetest, most awesome lady I am so blessed to have known and had for a dentist. She did so much for me making me feel more comfortable. She will be greatly missed. A wonderful woman inside and out. Prayers to everyone who loved her .

Ann Knoderer - July 26, 2020 at 09:14 AM

HW

“ We LOVED going to the dentist...she took such good care of Harry and me. Tara was a prayer warrior for me when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and vice versa. We prayed for her as well. She was a precious, Godly woman. We will miss her smile and always humming a beautiful tune. Love and prayers for her family and associates. Harry and Nancy White

Harry and Nancy White - July 24, 2020 at 05:00 PM

RC

“ I will always remember Tara for her smile and exuberance. She was a go-getter! I was impressed by her need to succeed and the way she forged ahead. She will dearly be missed. My prayers for her family and friends. Patrick and Ruthie Coleman



<https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle1.png>

Ruth Coleman - July 24, 2020 at 02:45 PM

TD

“ *Trina Davis lit a candle in memory of Dr Tara Jernigan Wheeler*



trina davis - July 24, 2020 at 01:33 PM

DQ

“ *She always ask about our grand children and had that beautiful smile with Amazing Grace humming the whole time she worked, God has a Angel now we will surely miss her.*

Diann Quinley - July 22, 2020 at 10:21 AM

LL

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for Tara's family during this difficult time.*

Lauren Lee - July 22, 2020 at 10:10 AM

DM

“ *Tara was that rare combination of beauty, brilliance and grace. I worked with her in Birmingham before she became a dentist. I admired her determination and grit. Condolences to her family and friends.*

Debra Miller - July 22, 2020 at 07:00 AM

CJ

“ *She was the most wonderful Dentist I've ever known. When I first meet her I felt like I've known her all my life. I'm having a hard time believing that she is gone. She will be greatly missed. May God be with her family and watch over them through this hard time.*

Cassandra M Johnson - July 22, 2020 at 12:49 AM

SL

“ *A genuine Godly soul. I always left her office with a happy heart because of her spiritual radiance.*

sharon lavender - July 21, 2020 at 05:24 PM

TC

“ *Her gentle ,caring presence will be what my family will remember most. I pray that God puts his hand on her precious family's shoulders at this time . I hummed Amazing Grace I as thought of her today. God Speed on Angels Wings she now soars!*

Todd Cason - July 20, 2020 at 01:50 PM

MD

I new Tara for about years, she was the most beautiful lady inside and out. Please bless the family in in these trying times. Marge Davies

Marge Davies - July 22, 2020 at 07:45 PM

JF

I was so,heartbroken to learn of Dr Wheeler passing. I had seen her in June for a toothache, makes me thankful now for that toothache or I would not have gotten to visit with my humming friend once more. I so enjoyed our talks about Sweet Jesus & how graciously good he had been to both of us. I had shared a prayer over her claiming Jeremiah 32v17 victory for her. She seemed so exhausted trying to talk but, seemed so important to express her appreciation to me; and oh my goodness, how I want to express my appreciation to her once more 😭. Thank you Sweet Jesus, for having lined up strategically our paths to cross & meet. I am forever indebted to you Jesus for blessing my life with her friendship. Bless Bryan & Morgan, her parents & siblings & extended family both today & in the days, weeks, months ahead. Grant them strength, perseverance, peace & will to go onward, upward, heavenward just as Tara walked and showed us the way while here with us. May we always remember her gentle manner, her calming hum & those compassionate filled to overflowing beautiful brown eyes that I imagine to greatly resemble our heavenly fathers gaze. Bless her family Lord Jesus!

Jackie Ball Faulk - August 27, 2020 at 12:14 AM